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# Twelve More Uncommon Trips in the Pacific Northwest

By Joel Connelly  
Maps by Robert Radek

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Pacific  
Northwest

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This booklet is a special publication of *Pacific Northwest* magazine. The parent company, Pacific Search Publications, is an independent nonprofit corporation committed to involving the public in responsibility for the quality and diversity of life in the Pacific Northwest. Pacific Search Publications, through its magazine, book publishing program, and sponsorship of films, outdoor experiences, and special projects, celebrates the region's natural world and strives to foster excellence in regional journalism, art, photography, leadership and environmental literacy.

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*Pacific Northwest* magazine, 222 Dexter Avenue North, Seattle,  
WA 98109.

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# Bowron Lakes of the Cariboo

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In central British Columbia, a 56-mile drive east from Quesnel on Highway 26 will bring you to nine lakes and three rivers that combine to form a near-perfect natural parallelogram—and probably the finest canoe loop trip in North America. The lakes and surrounding environs comprise British Columbia's 305,000-acre Bowron Lake Provincial Park.

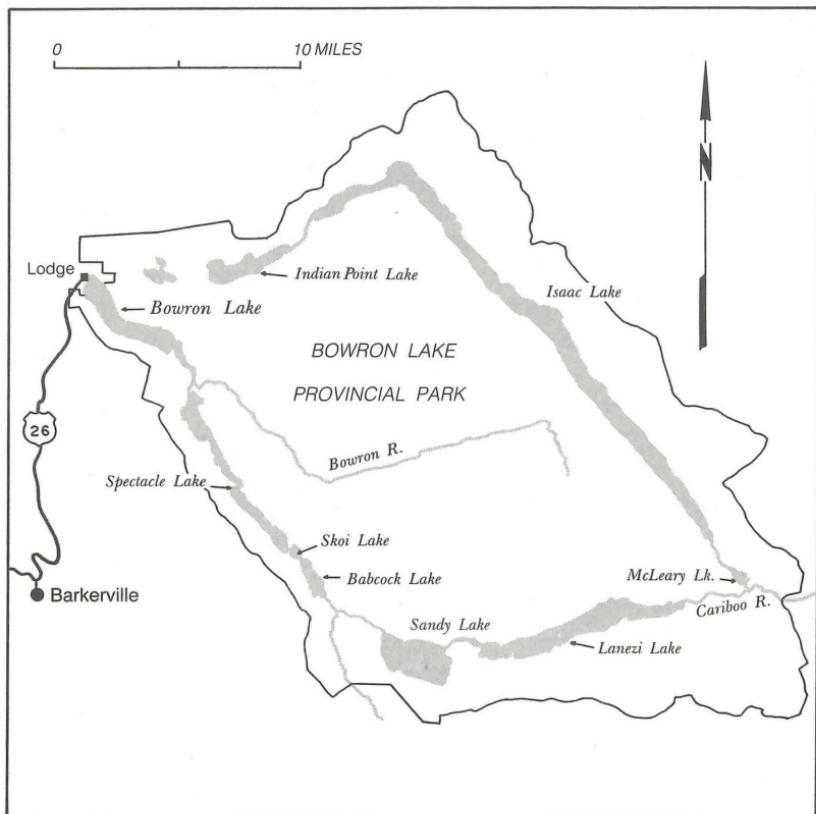
On your drive up to the park, there are two stop-offs you shouldn't miss. Williams Lake, 75 miles south of Quesnel, stages a barn-burner of a stampede each year during the first week of July. It attracts thousands of visitors and competitors from throughout the ranching country of the province's interior.

Just short of Bowron Lake Park on Highway 26 is the historic town of Barkerville. It is named for one Billy Barker, a diminutive Englishman who discovered gold here in 1862; the resulting human stampede brought 30,000 people to the Cariboo in one year. The tasteful restoration effort has put it all back together—Kelly's Saloon, the dentist's office that offered "Painless Tooth Extraction" for five dollars, St. Saviour's Church and the courtroom of hanging judge Matthew Baillie Begbie. There's even a show in which Begbie's tirades against mistreatment of pack animals are reenacted.

At Bowron Park, two lodges offer canoe or kayak rentals. Plan to visit the Registration Center just past the lodges and attend a half-hour orientation program on dealing with the bear population. Make plans well in advance; the Bowron circuit is popular in July and early August. June is quiet, but expect high water and mosquitoes.

Keep in mind that the canoe trip is an endeavor for the fit, a lesson that the initial one-and-one-half mile portage teaches you in a hurry. But portages total only six miles of the entire trip. The remaining 67 miles of canoeing take you along Indian Point Lake, Isaac Lake (nearly 20 miles long), McLeary Lake, Lanezi Lake, Sandy Lake, Babcock Lake, Skoi Lake, Spectacle Lake and Bowron Lake. There is brief travel on the Isaac River, Cariboo River and Bowron River; a clockwise tour allows you to paddle with the current of all three.

# A Loop, a Landmark and a Stampede



The lake fishing for Dolly Varden and Kamloops trout is uneven but the scenery is consistently magnificent. In addition, moose and beaver are frequently spotted; grizzly bears will be in your lap if your food is not hung properly at night; and thousands of geese, ducks and swans make a home of the lakes.

For information, write to the Office of Tourism, 600 Stewart Street, Seattle, WA 98101, or the Williams Lake Chamber of Commerce at Box 4330, Williams Lake, B.C. V2G 2V4.

# Earl Grey Pass Centennial Trail

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**A**n alpine pass; a 10,500-foot peak; a gleaming ice field; meadows of lupine, paintbrush and mountain pasque; and a lake just warm enough for a swim to escape the bugs. Such are the attractions of Earl Grey Pass in the Purcell Mountains of southeastern British Columbia.

There are two ways into the pass, neither of which is easy. It's a 21-mile trek from the tiny old mining town of Argenta on the north end of Kootenay Lake. Or, from the east, via Invermere and the Mineral King road, the hike is nine miles. The Argenta route is badly overgrown, so an approach via Invermere is recommended. To enjoy the hike—and endure the blowdowns on the trail—don't try to do the whole nine miles in one day.

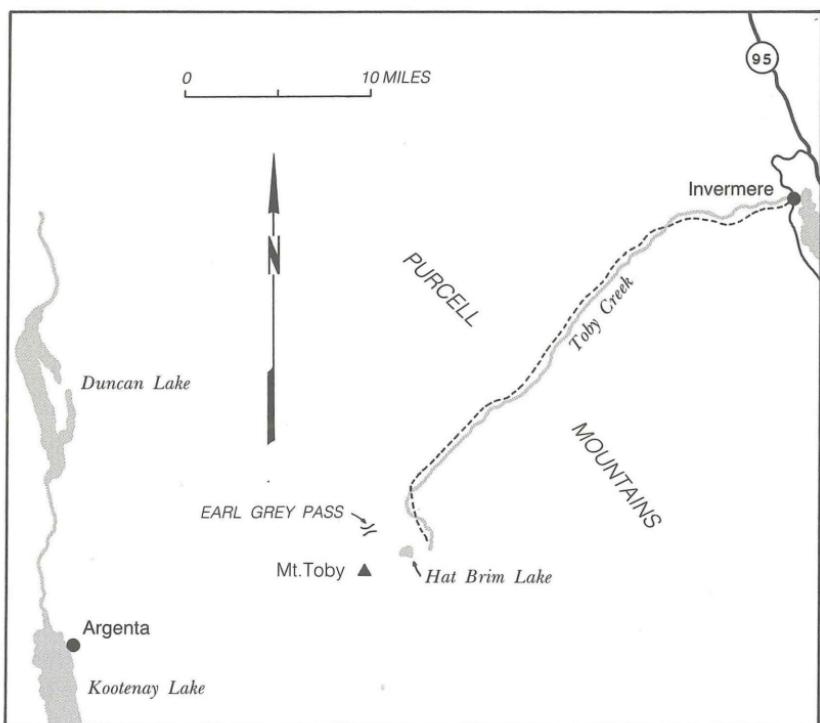
In either direction, the going is never dull. The roller-coaster Kootenay approach features a cable-car crossing at Hamill Creek, beaver dams and ponds, towering stands of Englemann spruce and tantalizing views ahead to high peaks. The Mineral King hike starts in a horse corral, passes through stands of fir and aspen, offers distant and close-up views of spectacular Toby Creek Falls, and high camping in the outwash plain at the foot of receding Toby Glacier.

A note of caution: trails in British Columbia are not nearly as well marked as south of the border. You should purchase a copy of the guidebook by Anne Edwards, *Exploring the Purcell Wilderness* (Douglas & McIntyre, 1875 Welch Street, North Vancouver, B.C., \$5.95) before taking these hikes.

The Purcells are a "forgotten" mountain range as evidenced by the history of the pass itself. It was the scene of a gold rush a century ago, and was crossed in 1903 by Canada's Governor—General Earl Grey, for whom it is named. Grey later wrote that the pass provided one of the most beautiful views he had ever seen and predicted that the area would be used by increasing numbers of people searching for "rest, health, beauty and recreation."

It took 66 years for his vision to come true. In the meantime, much of the Purcell Range—even land near the famed 11,000-foot Bugaboo Spire—was given over to logging. In 1974, however, British

# The Purcells: B.C.'s Forgotten Mountains



Columbia's Forests Minister Bob Williams broke precedent and created a 325,000-acre wilderness conservancy in the range. Its scenic climax is Earl Grey Pass.

The pass is one of the most stunning alpine expanses in North America. While backstroking in tiny Hat Brim Lake, you can gaze out at a multitude of glacier-draped peaks. The water is much colder when you cross Toby Creek, just below the snout of the glacier.

From the inviting meadows near the pass itself, gaze down at the Y-shaped ice field of Toby Glacier and out to Toby Mountain and Mount Lady Grey. Ptarmigan and marmots will keep you company, until a high-pitched marmot whistle warns of a hawk overhead.

# Fraser Canyon to Howe Sound

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This mountain loop motor trip displays the beautiful and the ugly of British Columbia: stunning canyons, majestic fjords and wild mountains now scarred by clear-cuts.

Starting out from Hope, east of Vancouver, you will find the sun-baked Fraser Canyon of the Trans-Canada Highway is big-scale country. Cliffs tower thousands of feet above the surging, muddy river. A mandatory stop-off near the town of Boston Bar is the Hells Gate Fishway built 30 years ago to carry salmon past a wild rapids created by rock fall during construction of the Canadian National Railroad. The old road down to the river is far more interesting than the overhead cable car. It must be walked.

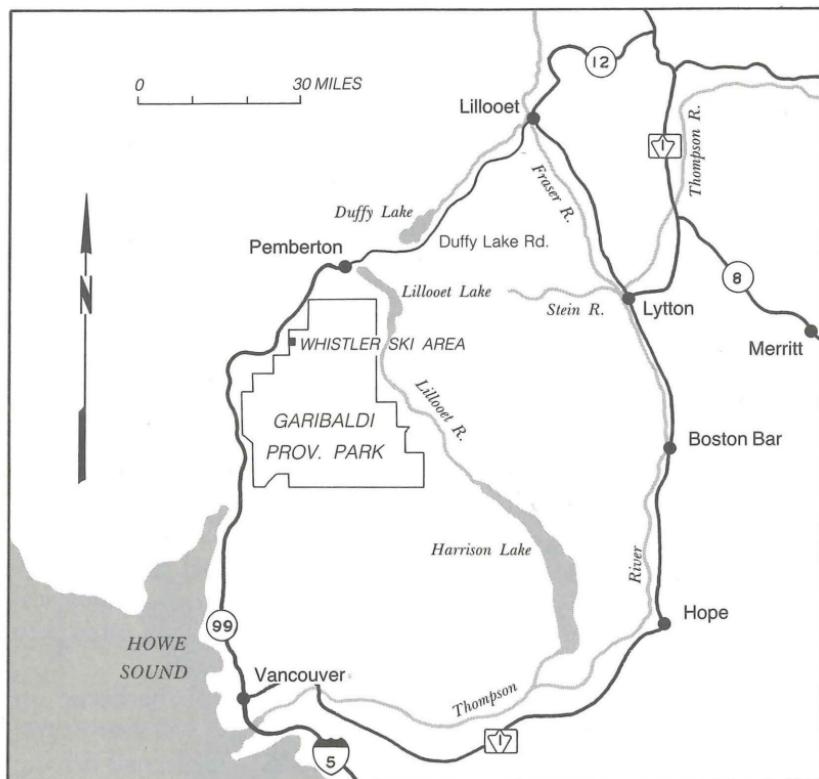
Leave the Trans-Canada Highway at Lytton—stopping to watch the blue waters of the Thompson River be absorbed by the brown Fraser—and drive north on Highway 12 to Lillooet. The mountains grow steadily higher. At Lillooet, after asking directions, turn south on the Duffey Lake road and climb steeply into the Coast Range.

The 60-mile road traverses incredible mountain country. The only accommodations are small B.C. Forest Service campsites; the most lovely one is at the east end of Duffey Lake with Mount Matier and Joffre Peak framed in the background. However, views are frequently marred by the aftermath of logging: scalped lakeshore trees and defiled stream beds.

The gravel road eventually descends steeply to the north end of Lillooet Lake; stop here to explore the remains of an old railroad trestle and, in fall, look for spawning salmon. Pavement resumes at Pemberton as Highway 99 winds south through the Cheakmus Canyon, past the sprawling Whistler Ski Resort and entrances to Garibaldi Park. A gorgeous drive along Howe Sound takes you back to Vancouver.

If your time and energy permit, explore the spectacular Stein River valley. The 50-mile long valley, circled by roads described here, is the last unlogged watershed in southwest British Columbia. Unfortunately, it may not stay that way for long under the short-sighted management of the B.C. Forest Service.

# Super, Natural Southwest B.C.



The lower Stein, near Lytton, is family hiking and camping country, with a colorful crossing of the Fraser River on the current-propelled two-car Lytton ferry. To reach the glacial lakes and 9,000-foot peaks at the head of the Stein, the easiest route is Blowdown Creek road off the Duffey Lake road.

There are, however, no marked trails or trailheads in the Stein. If interested in this dramatic country, buy a copy of Roger Freeman and David Thompson's *Exploring the Stein River Valley* (Douglas & McIntrye, 1875 Welch Street, North Vancouver, B.C., \$6.95).

# British Columbia's Gulf Islands

The Gulf Islands of British Columbia are a little farther off the beaten path than their southern neighbors, the San Juans. Bald eagles know this. America's national symbol, which used to nest frequently in the southern San Juans, is now heading north of the border in search of peace and quiet to bear its young.

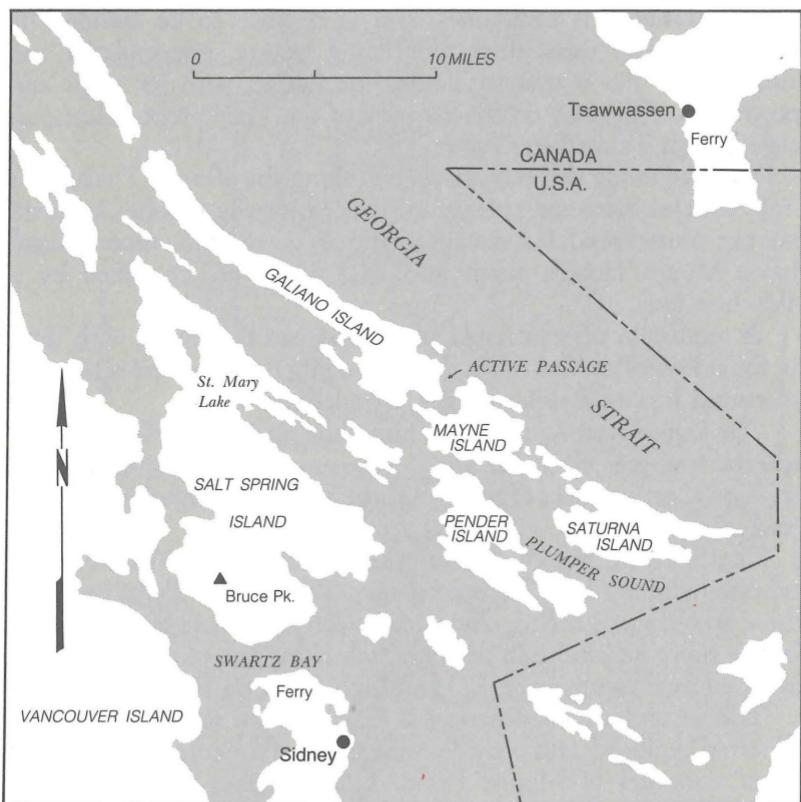
The islands are probably best explored by boat, although the B.C. Ferries do provide car access to the major islands from Swartz Bay on Vancouver Island and from Tsawwassen, south of Vancouver. There's splendid moorage and camping in misty Montague Harbour on Galiano Island; beer-drinking with fellow boaters at the Bedwell Harbour Marina on South Pender; and the experience of watching fishing boats and B.C. ferries play a game of dare in chute-like Active Passage between Galiano and Mayne islands.

However, the crowning experience for this writer is to spend an afternoon drifting south through the Plumper Sound channel between Saturna Island and the two Pender islands. It is a quiet place, with few signs of civilization. As many as seven bald eagle aeries have been reported in the treetops overlooking the channel, and up to 40 eagles have been sighted at one time. If you're lucky, a curious seal will swim along behind the boat. Pods of killer whales are often seen at the northern end of the channel near Mayne Island.

A few tips for the landlubber: The July 1 lamb barbecue on Saturna Island is a great get-together for the island's 150 year-round residents and up to 1,500 visitors. It's a day of kids' races, nail-driving competitions and—a wonderful local invention—pig diapering contests. And the lamb—roasted over big open spits—is superb.

The biggest of the Gulf Islands, 20-mile long Salt Spring Island—called “Chuan,” or “facing the sea” by local Indians—is an ideal place for the recreationist seeking peace. It has placid farming country, gentle hills and two fine provincial parks. There are also two gorgeous viewpoints on Salt Spring, one reachable by trail and the other by road. The trail destination is 2,400-foot Mount Bruce near Fulford Harbour; ask locally for directions to the trail head, which leads off Musgrave Road. The car destination is 1,877-foot Mount

# Where Eagles and People Find Sanctuary



Maxwell in Mouat Park.

The resort center of Salt Spring Island is St. Mary Lake, largest of the island's half-dozen bodies of fresh water. The lake is known for its bass and trout fishing, so well known that advance reservations should be made at one of its seven resorts.

For a listing of land and sea activities in the islands, purchase Phyllis and Bill Bultmann's *Border Boating: Twelve Cruises through the San Juan and Gulf Islands* (Pacific Search Press, Seattle, WA \$7.95).

# Mount Hood's Timberline Trail

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**M**ount Hood is sometimes seen as a place to be avoided by those who want their mountains remote, unpopulated and undeveloped. But a visit to Timberline Lodge, with its mobs and snowmobiles, gives an erroneous view of the 11,245-foot volcano as solely Portland's weekend resort.

You can enjoy different vistas by taking the 40-mile Timberline Trail, which circles the mountain. It occasionally brushes by a ski resort or tourist road, but always continues on to much more private places; Mount Hood's north and west flanks are protected by a wilderness area.

A mountain of reasonable size, Hood can be circled, with time out for side trips, in five or six days—roughly half the time it takes to go around Mount Rainier on the Wonderland Trail.

The logical starting point is Timberline on Mount Hood's south face; the trail goes clockwise around the mountain. A Civilian Conservation Corps project of the 1930s, the path is well marked and the tread mostly excellent.

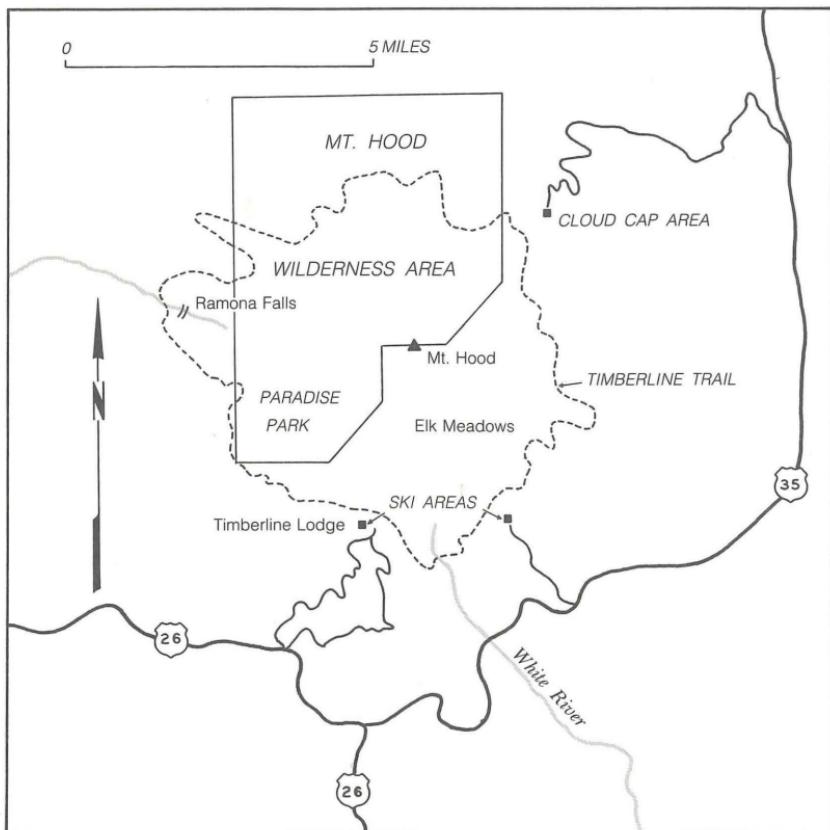
The first day gives a clue to options that follow. A short four-and-one-half-mile hike leads to grassy, flower-filled Paradise Park, where an old stone shelter offers protection from inclement weather. For the more ambitious, a ten-mile trek along the trail takes one to sublime forest camps near 100-foot-high Ramona Falls.

The second day destination is Cairn Basin, which encourages unlimited exploring and provides wide views of the cathedral like northwest contours of Mount Hood. Climb higher for glimpses of Washington volcanoes and the distant, misty Olympics.

The high, barren Cloud Cap area, site of an old and closed-down hotel, is the logical spot to spend the third or fourth night. The expanse of Elk Meadows is another fine campsite and exploring spot. As the largest flower garden on Mount Hood, the meadows are shrouded in paintbrush and lupine in late July.

The final day's nine-mile hike out of Cloud Cap passes the Mount Hood Ski area and a somewhat difficult ford of the White River. The views to the south of Mount Jefferson and the Three

# Hike the Quiet Side of the Mountain



Sisters provide plenty of incentive for rest breaks.

A note of warning amidst descriptions of this paradise: As the title suggests, the Timberline Trail traverses high country, much of it between 6,000 and 7,000 feet above sea level. Be equipped to endure cold, wet weather. August snowstorms are not uncommon here, and a big mountain may stand between you and your car. The hike is generally snow-free, however, by mid-July.

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# Running the Rogue, Relaxing in Eugene

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The complaint most often voiced by those attending southern Oregon's popular Shakespearean Festival in Ashland, is that it's too far removed from other interesting activities. Not so. If the grumblers would look around, they'd find white water nearby.

The Siskiyou Mountains don't boast spires with such names as Fang or Ogre. But they do have lonely ridges covered with rare plants (lonely because there's no water), rare animals—even an occasional wolf—and a famous rafting river, the wild Rogue.

The Rogue, a mixture of frothy rapids and deep green pools, has been classified a Wild and Scenic River as it flows through the Siskiyous. A famous chute-like stretch called Mule Creek Canyon and rapids graded four on a scale of six should give pause to the novice rafter.

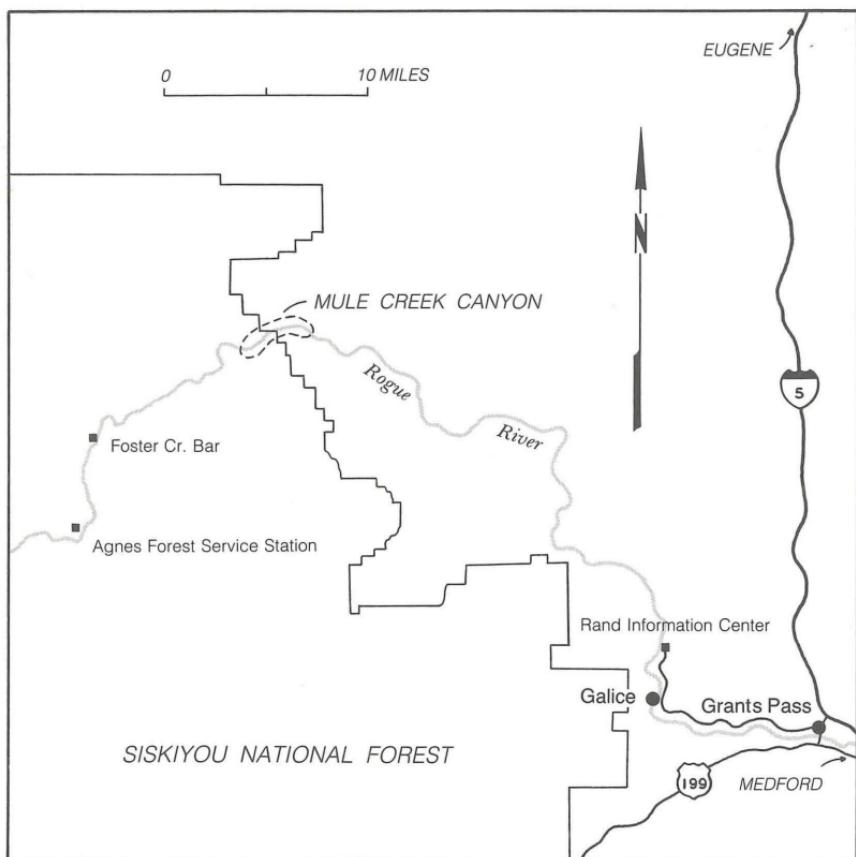
The place also has its human legends. The novelist Zane Grey lived there periodically. His aloof manner didn't endear him to the locals; nonetheless, he wished that a creek be named in his honor. Instead, the stream was named Charlie Woo Creek in honor of Grey's manservant, who was reportedly a better fisherman than his boss.

The usual rafting trip covers 50 miles in three days and two nights. You start at the Rand Visitors' Information Center, north of Galice and end at Foster Bar near Agness. (Galice is about 25 miles from Grants Pass.) Nights are spent at beach campsites or a series of rustic lodges; expect simple accommodations, with meal ingredients grown in backyard vegetable gardens.

The Siskiyou National Forest controls and limits access to the Rogue. Permits are granted by lottery. Due to the uncertainty (plus the difficulty of negotiating grade four rapids) a guided expedition is recommended. How to choose a guide? First take a single-day raft trip on a river near where you live to see if you like the sport, then contact the Oregon Guides & Packers Association, P.O. Box 3797, Portland, OR 97208 for information on guides for the Rogue.

If you are coming from the north, a drive to southern Oregon is hot, long and tiring. One good way to break the monotony is to spend a half-day bicycling around Eugene. Eugene has grown in

# White Water and Shade Trees



recent years—completely encircling Wayne Morse's ranch—but remains a tree-shaded university town along the placid Willamette River.

The city's virtues are shown off on more than 100 miles of hiking and bicycling trails; the best is five-and-one-half-mile Greenway Loop, which crosses bridges and passes by orchards and parks. Canoes and bikes can be rented at various facilities throughout the city. Or, simply take a swim in the river. The Willamette Valley gets hot in high summer!

# Idaho's Seven Devils Range

Customers of Washington Water Power received an unexpected extra with their electric bills in the summer of 1975; the Spokane-based utility enclosed material denouncing pending legislation to create a Hells Canyon National Recreation Area on the border between Oregon and Idaho. Congress ignored the utility and created the NRA in November of 1975. After a 20-year battle, 68 miles of North America's deepest canyon were formally designated as wilderness.

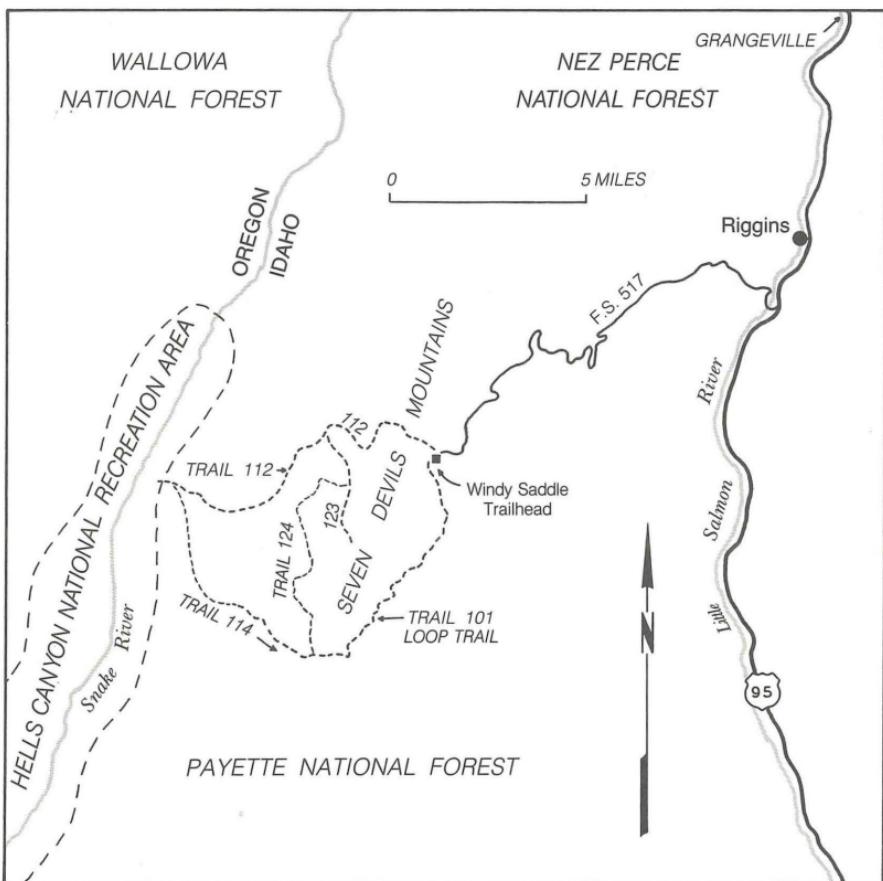
Congress had saved an austere and dramatic landscape. The V-shaped canyon cuts an 8,100-foot-deep gap between Oregon's Wallowa Mountains and the Seven Devils Mountains of Idaho. Bighorn sheep live here, along with Rocky Mountain elk, mountain goats, mule deer, mountain lions, falcons and rattlesnakes.

For the best experience, head up into the Seven Devils Range on the Idaho side, stopping at Grangeville, located on U.S. 95 about 65 miles southeast of Lewiston, for provisions and maps. Drive on to Riggins, where advice can be obtained from the rangers at the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. The information office is two miles south of Riggins at the Riggins Fire Center. From Riggins proceed to Forest Service Road 517. The road climbs 17 miles to Windy Saddle, the main trailhead.

Trails 101 and 124 make a popular 27-mile Loop Trail which circles around peaks with such names as Devils Throne, He Devil, She Devil, The Ogre and The Goblin. Trail 112 winds down into Hells Canyon. Trail 123, one of the high routes, is recommended for its sweeping views from windy ridgetops.

A couple notes of advice. While the high elevations get beastly hot in the summer, Road #517 is not snow-free until mid-July and Windy Saddle Trailhead is only open July 1 to September 15. Be sure to check with the Forest Service for road and trail conditions before starting out. The area is strictly no-trace camping, so be prepared to pack in and pack out all supplies. Bring warm clothes for cool evenings and a snakebit kit.

# Heavens Above Hells Canyon



These canyon lands are another legacy of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. In 1966, the jurist-conservationist wrote a decision in which the high court overturned Federal Power Commission licensing of dams in Hells Canyon. Go back to the drawing boards, Douglas told the FPC, and consider such values as fish and wildlife protection, recreation use and preservation of wild rivers.

Eventually, Congress did just that and Hells Canyon was saved.

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# The Olympic Banana Belt

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If it seems like summer will never come to the Northwest, go visit the "banana belt." The "belt" is not a Central American destination, but actually a region near Sequim on the Olympic Peninsula; protected by the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains, it gets less than 20 inches of precipitation each year.

Dungeness Spit was sighted and named in 1792 by Captain George Vancouver from aboard his sloop "Discovery"; it reminded Vancouver of Dungeness Cape on the coast of southern England.

To reach the seven-mile-long Spit, drive about four miles west from downtown Sequim on U.S. Highway 101; watch for the Dungeness Recreation Area sign and turn north. Follow the country road almost to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, where it turns right into a county park. The trail is well-marked.

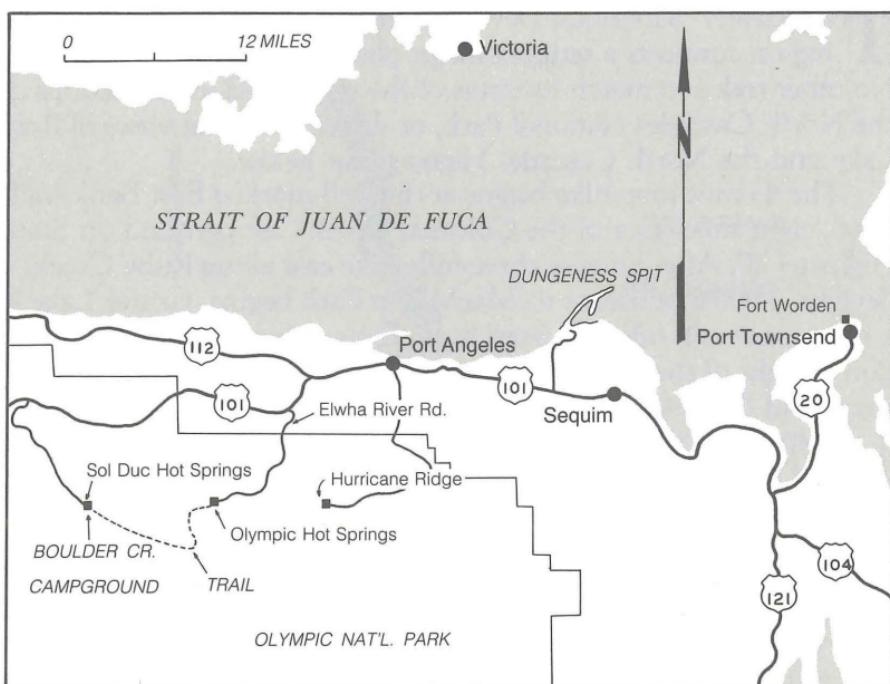
A quarter mile hike takes you to an expansive view of the seven-mile long sandspit and land's end lighthouse. Walk down to the beach, and hike as far as time and energy will allow.

The pleasures of this place are sublime: having a curious seal swim along just offshore as you hike . . . watching moist pebbles gleam in the sun . . . admiring multicolored starfish at low tide . . . putting your face to the breeze coming off the Strait of Juan de Fuca . . . moving a few yards to sunbathe on the protected windward side of the spit . . . spotting downtown Victoria to the north through binoculars . . . admiring the snow-covered backdrop of Hurricane Ridge . . . and thinking of the drizzle back home.

Dungeness Spit is a national wildlife refuge. The sandspit forms an almost completely protected lagoon, which is a stop-off point for ducks, geese and black brants during their annual migrations. It is also a breeding area for shorebirds. Be careful not to disturb any of these creatures; they have few coastal sanctuaries left.

There are a couple of fun things to do before or after hiking the Spit. To the east, at beautiful Fort Worden State Park near Port Townsend, the Centrum Foundation schedules cultural workshops as well as plays, chamber music recitals, a jazz festival, fiddling competitions and a film series. If staying overnight in Port Townsend, the

# A Sandspit, Hot Springs and Culture



James House, Palace Hotel or Manresa Castle are recommended.

Two hot springs, farther west of Sequim off Highway 101, are also worth a visit. Sol Duc Hot Springs in the Olympic National Park has a small resort where you can rent cabins or rooms. Water temperature in the pool is 110 degrees. The Olympic Hot Springs is much wilder (encouraging some to bathe *au naturel*). This natural mineral spring with water flowing out of the ground at 100 to 110 degrees is about a six-mile walk from Boulder Creek Campground at the end of the Elwha River road.

If you like to earn your lolling in the hot springs, take the Boulder Creek trail, which climbs five miles, gaining 2,600 feet, up to Appleton Pass. A remarkably tame mountain goat herd lives here, and a meadow south of the pass offers magnificent views of Mount Olympus and the peaks of the Bailey Range.

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# The North Cascade's Crater Mountain

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The Crater Mountain-Devils Dome Loop in northern Washington connects a series of magic places, each a day's hike apart. No other trek can match its vistas of the north and south sections of the North Cascades National Park, or dizzying vertical views of Ross Lake and the North Cascades Highway far below.

The 43-mile loop hike begins at the well-marked East Bank trail-head, eight miles east of the Colonial Creek Campground on State Highway 20. After an easy three-mile hike east along Ruby Creek, a devilish 3,900-foot ascent to MacMillan Park begins. Crater Lake is a short one-mile side trip from here. Exhaustion yields to exhilaration at sight of the tarn, set against the backdrop of waterfalls, larch snags and 8,128-foot Crater Mountain.

Keep going and an old lookout trail will take you high on the slopes of the mountains of the lake; you'll reach 7,500 feet before the going gets scary. Sprawl in the high meadow. Look south to the dark, impressive towers of Black Peak and Mount Logan; directly below to ant-sized cars on the highway; and west to Diablo Lake, the spires of the Pickets and an unusual view of the east face of Mount Baker.

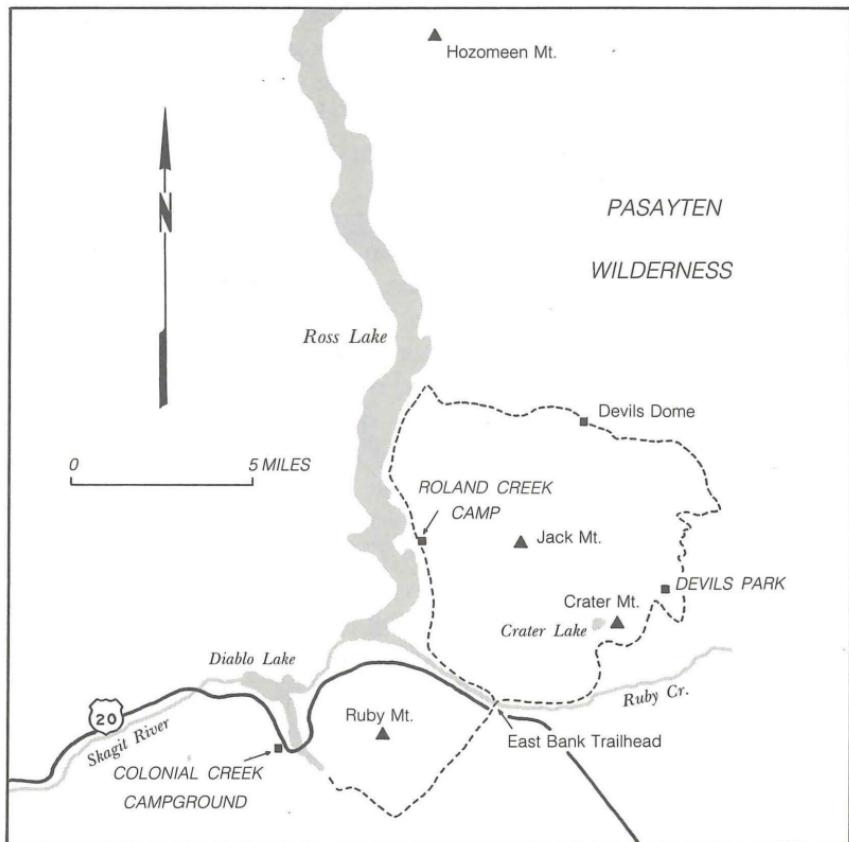
The subsequent loop trip—which circles 8,905-foot Jack Mountain, “King of the Skagit”—promises other wonders: Jack Mountain emerging in air washed clear by a thunderstorm, looming above the tranquil meadow of Devils Park (the second night's camp).

The trail alternates between views of glaciated North Cascade giants and barren, scarred peaks of the Pasayten Wilderness. From 7,000-foot Devils Dome, reached on the fourth day of the six-day hike, look north to the twin towers of Hozomeen—popularized by Jack Kerouac's writings when he was a fire lookout—and south to the tumbling Nohokomeen Glacier on Jack Mountain.

On the fifth day, the trail descends gently to Ross Lake. The fjord-like reservoir is full in summer; don't miss a cleansing swim in the lake at the Devils Landing camp.

A note on the final night out: permits are required to use the National Park Service camp at Roland Creek, a six-mile hike from the starting point. Permits are available at the Marblemount, Washington, forest service office.

# Balcony Views of the American Alps



But there's a much better spot to pitch your tent than the mosquito-infested official site. Staying just north of Ruby Creek, find an opening in the brush; 15 minutes of easy bushwhacking lead to a gorgeous cove on Ross Lake with a campsite and fire grill. The view down to Ruby Mountain will make you forget that a week in God's country is coming to an end.

Note: To hike the entire loop requires two permits, both available at U.S. Forest Service, Marblemount, WA.

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# Upper Cle Elum River Robin Lakes

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The upper Cle Elum River Valley in eastern Washington offers recreation for everyone, whatever one's level of vigor, interest or proficiency in the out-of-doors. Among the valley's diverse pleasures are camping, a beginner's hike to a valley lake and the stern challenge of reaching one of the supreme beauty spots of Washington's Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area.

The 20-mile drive north from Interstate 90 to Salmon la Sac is on a paved highway in excellent condition. However, the 13-mile jaunt up from Salmon la Sac is on a winding, hole-filled dirt road; the first mile is the worst stretch. Near the road end is Fish Lake Campground, usually crowded on summer weekends but fairly private the rest of the time. The marshy lake and river are excellent for canoeing. More private camping is possible by driving to the road end, and walking a short spur west to the Deep Lake trail head.

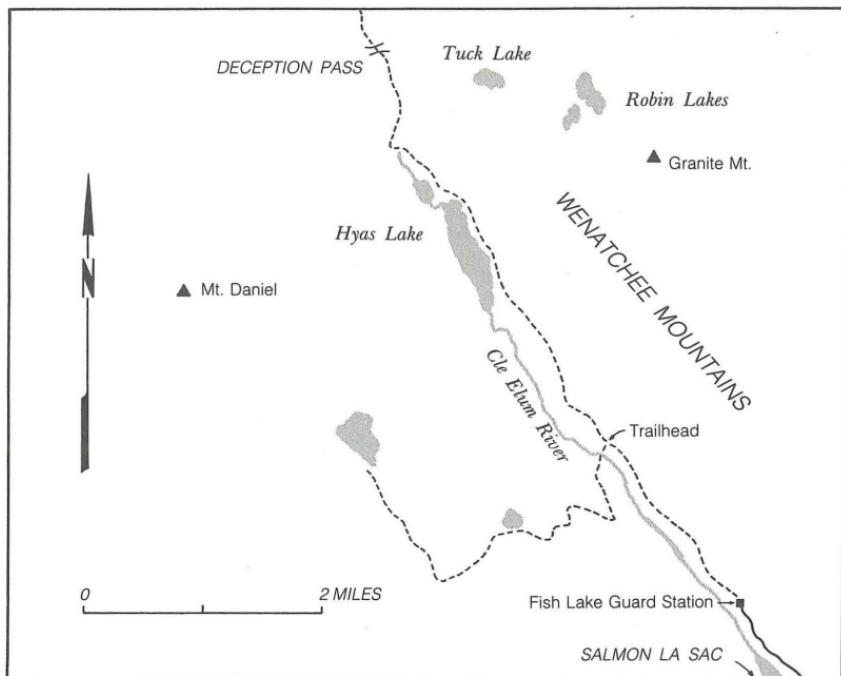
The main hiking trail to Hyas Lake heads north from the end of the road. A short, gentle hike takes you to the 3,448-foot, mile-long lake which sits beneath the spire of 6,724-foot Cathedral Rock. From here you can gaze upon the glaciers on 7,900-foot Mount Daniel.

Hyas Lake is a fine place to bring children on their first hike. Bring grandma, too. There are numerous campsites, though wood is scarce. The lake is usually calm enough to be paddled in an inner tube (though watch for late afternoon breezes). Marshy upper Hyas Lake is a good bird-watching spot; members of the hawk and jay families are commonly sighted.

The high-country destination is the Robin Lakes—Granite Mountain area, a stiff seven-and-one-half mile hike from the road end. Climb steeply after the trail leaves Hyas Lake; shortly after it crosses a gully at about five miles from the road end, watch for an "x" and arrow chopped in a tree on the left side of the trail. There is no trail sign.

The unmaintained trail is steep and often brushy, leveling out only at two miles when it reaches the granite basins of the 5,200-foot Tuck Lakes. There's a gorgeous view out to Mount Daniel from slabs west of the lakes.

# Something for Everyone



Fine as this place is, an even finer alpine fairyland lies a mile and 900 feet higher. Find a trail near the outlet of big Tuck Lake, scramble upward to a draw (taking the left fork when the trail divides) and walk up granite slabs to 6,100-foot Robin Lakes, usually snow-free by the end of July or early August.

The lakes are aptly named for their robin's egg color. They sit in basins of ice-scratched granite amidst a marvelous but fragile late summer flower show of lupine and lilies. Cross-valley sunsets on Mount Daniel afford some of the best picture-taking in the Cascade Range. (Don't attempt this hike in bad weather, though; unmarked trail routes make route-finding tricky.)

For the final climax, saunter up the slopes of 7,100-foot Granite Mountain to tarns and flowers, plus top-of-the-world views.

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# Lake Chelan: The Inland Fjord

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The average visitor gets two outlooks on Washington's Lake Chelan, the vistas going up to Stehekin on the cruise boat, the *Lady of the Lake*, and views on the return trip. There are much better ways to enjoy the 55-mile-long water gateway to the North Cascades.

This writer will offer two escapes that he has enjoyed, one for the loafing visitor—in search of sun, tennis and perhaps a bit of bicycling—and one for those wishing to carry a pack and go for a 17-mile walk.

If you want the comfort of a resort, yet are capable of structuring your own leisure time, the condominiums at The Inn at Wapato Point near the town of Manson are an ideal retreat. There are balconies for gazing out at Lake Chelan, beaches for swimming, sleepy country roads for cycling and first-rate tennis courts. The Inn also rents canoes. Lake Chelan is a delight during the morning hours, but afternoon winds often make it choppy going.

For a side trip, take the long, winding road out of Manson up to 6,500-foot South Navarre Campground. You'll reach a superb aerial view of the lake; however, the road up can be awful. Stop at the Chelan Ranger Station of the Wenatchee National Forest for advice and counsel before risking your car.

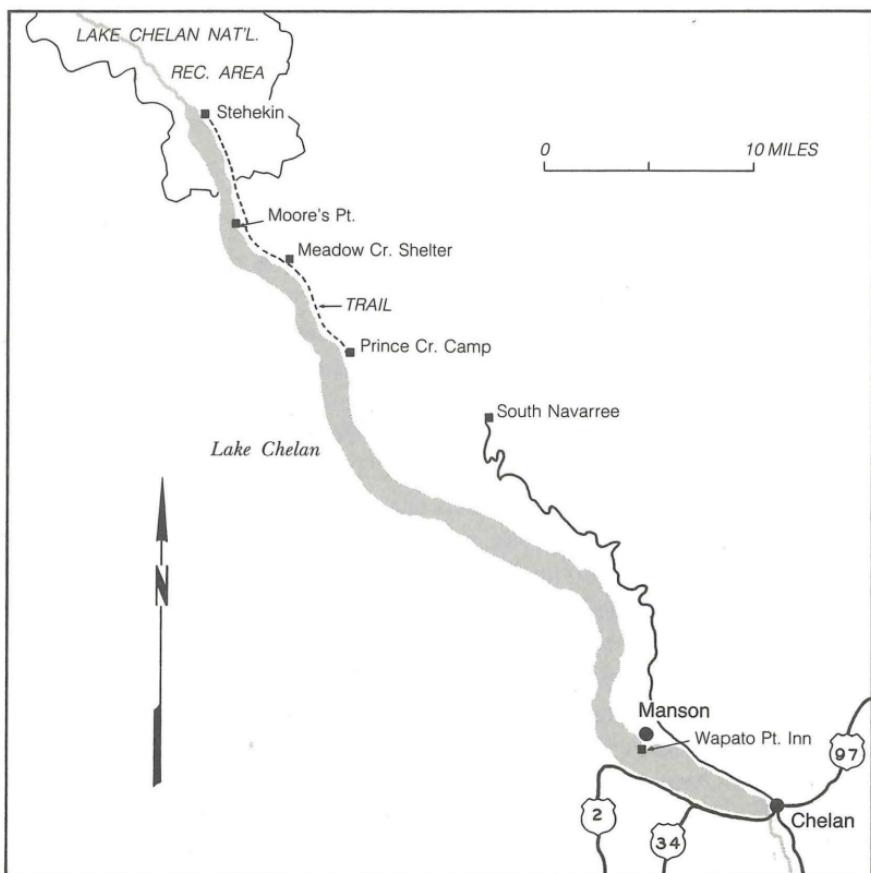
The Wapato resort is a particularly attractive place in spring and fall; Manson is a hotbox in high summer. It is dry, cold and often very beautiful in winter, but beware of conventions.

You can enjoy a more vigorous extended weekend by hiking the Chelan Lakeshore Trail from Prince Creek up to Stehekin. Catch the *Lady of the Lake* when it leaves Chelan at 8:30 a.m. and get off at Prince Creek where the trail head is; be in Stehekin by noon at the end of the hike for the return voyage.

The trail closely borders the lake's sparkling waters at points, but also climbs nearly 200 feet above the lake. It is free of snow in April, but crossing streams swollen with snow melt can be unnerving.

One fine place to camp, about seven miles north of Prince Creek, is the trail shelter at Meadow Creek. But the finest camp is not quite five miles farther, surrounded by the grass pastures and gnarled fruit

# Laze in the Sun or Hike the Lakeshore



trees of Moore's Point, an historic homestead on the lake. All along the route, gaze up more than 6,000 feet to the summits flanking this inland fjord.

Two final tips: Fall colors are splendid here, and gone are the buzzing motorboats of midsummer. Also, pay attention to the warm rocks on which you sprawl. Small rattlesnakes inhabit the lakeshore; they are shy reptiles, but do not like to be surprised.

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# Cougar Lakes Bumping River

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This is one of the more sheltered and private spots in the Cascade Range. It is protected from Pacific storms and mobs of tourists by the massive bulk of 14,410-foot Mount Rainier to the west.

The Bumping River—Bumping Lake area offers some of the state's most serene car camping. There's fishing in the river and reservoir; a bubbling spring of soda water near Soda Spring Campground; and an abandoned mining town named Copper City for those who enjoy exploring. (To reach the town, watch for the turnoff to U.S. Forest Service road 162, about fifteen miles from where the Bumping Lake Road takes off from the Chinook Pass Highway.)

The hamlet of Goose Prairie has gained some notoriety as the summer home of the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. In his autobiography *Go East Young Man*, Douglas wrote:

"I am part of the rhythm of the place—of the mornings just before and just after sunrise, when grass shrubs and trees are bejeweled; of the evenings when the grosbeaks swoop low and feed on insects, and the doe deer and the porcupine silently emerge from the woods to visit the clover."

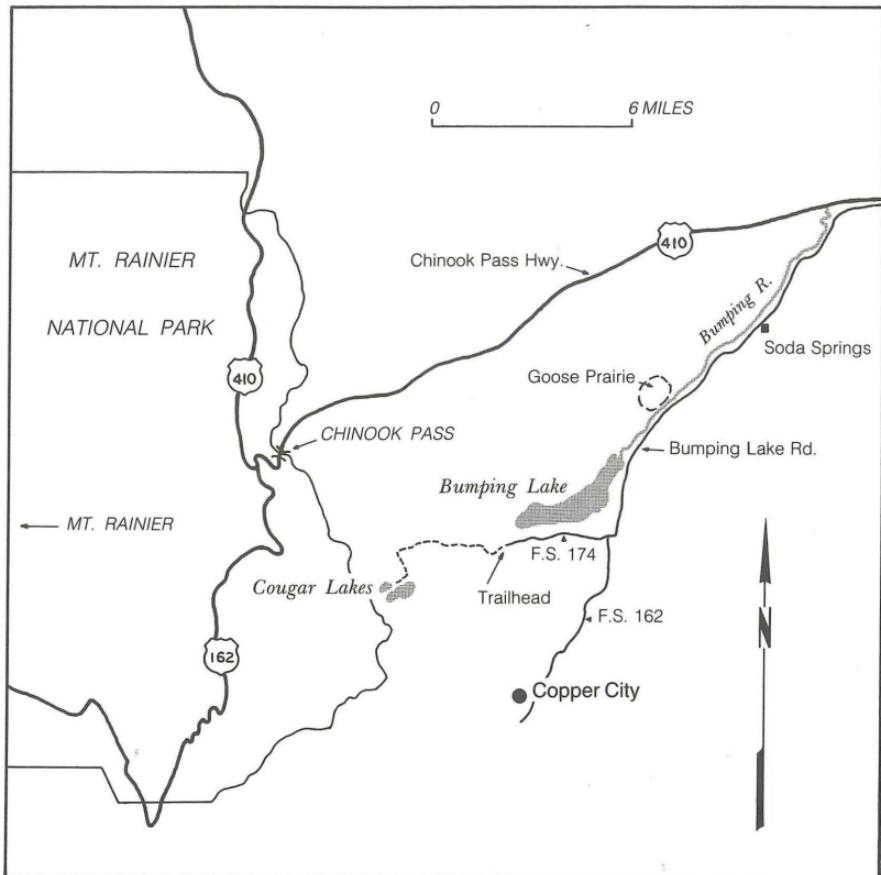
The judge had some colorful neighbors, most notably two formidable ladies named Kay Kershaw and Isabelle Lynn who operate the Double K Mountain Ranch. (Look for a Double K sign just before you reach Goose Prairie.) They have campaigned for a Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area to safeguard ridges, lakes and forests above the prairie.

The Double K is an interesting place to stay or use as a base camp for a pack trip into the high country. Don't bring the children (even if they like Jack Daniels and classical music) and expect to converse far into the night by firelight (the electricity goes off at 10:00 p.m.) Write ahead for reservations as they have no phone.

The climactic vistas lie far above Goose Prairie and Bumping Lake. A stiff six-mile hike beginning at a trail head six miles beyond Bumping Lake, leads to the twin Cougar Lakes, set in a 5,000-foot-high basin beneath peaks of the Cascade Crest.

This writer will never forget the grueling hike: making camp near

# In the Footsteps of William O. Douglas



fields of avalanche lilies at the head of Big Cougar Lake; watching fish jump (but not bite) at sunset; or hiking for four hours to reach the Cascade Crest the next morning. The crest is the boundary between eastern and western watersheds—and often a boundary between decent and inclement weather, as well. A dense fog obscured the west side of the ridge. But by walking a few hundred feet to the east, we emerged from the mist and stood in dazzling sunlight.

## Note:

National Park and Forest Service permit regulations and road numbers change from time to time. Before taking any trip in this book, contact the proper authorities for current information on use permits and up-to-date information on weather, road and trail conditions.

The maps provided in this book are for illustration purposes only and are not intended to be used as authoritative hiking maps. Be sure to obtain topographic maps with adequate trail markings before attempting any hiking trip.

# About the Authors

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